

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 SIL-01
LAB-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10
NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09 OES-09 /057 W
-----050009 161601Z /43
R 142124Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6504

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 5431

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ETRD, EWWT, AR
SUBJECT: BUENOS AIRES PORT STRIKE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5428

1. IN THE MIDST OF THE CORN AND SOYA EXPORT SEASON
A STEVEDORES STRIKE IN THE PORT OF BUENOS AIRES
EXACERBATED BY SEVERAL DAYS OF FOG AND BAD WEATHER
HAS CREATED A SERIOUS BACKLOG IN CARGO TRAFFIC IN
AND OUT OF THE PORT. REPORTEDLY, ABOUT 100 SHIPS
ARE BACKED UP WAITING TO COME INTO THE BUENOS AIRES
PORT AND ANOTHER 20-30 INTO ROSARIO. STEVEDORES
AND TUGBOAT PERSONNEL ARE WORKING THEIR DAY-TIME
SHIFTS, BUT ROUGHLY 5-6,000 OF THEM HAVE REFUSED
TO WORK NIGHT SHIFTS AND WEEKENDS UNLESS THEY RECEIVE
100 PERCENT OVERTIME PAY. CURRENT RULES ESTABLISHED BY
THE PORT AUTHORITY REPORTEDLY PROVIDE FOR 18 HOUR WORKSHIFTS
AT 50 PERCENT OVERTIME PAY. THE STRIKE BEGAN ABOUT 10
DAYS AGO AFTER THE NATIONAL GRAIN AUTHORITY IN
THE ROSARIO PORT REPORTEDLY ACCEDED TO ITS WORKERS'
DEMANDS FOR 100 PERCENT OVERTIME.

2. PORT SOURCES EXPECT THE GOVERNMENT TO GET
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TOUGH NEXT WEEK IF THE PROBLEM IS NOT RESOLVED
BEFORE THEN. GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES ARE
THREATENING TO HIRE NEW PORT PERSONNEL AND
PUNISH STRIKERS UNDER STRINGENT ANTISTRIKE AND SECURITY
LEGISLATION.

3. ARGENTINA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY FREE OF LABOR TROUBLE

SINCE THE MILITARY TOOK OVER THE GOVERNMENT IN MARCH
1976. THERE WAS A SIGNIFICANT PORT STRIKE IN NOVEMBER
1976, HOWEVER. DESPITE DISCONTENT OVER WAGES --
PARTICULARLY IN THE STATE INDUSTRIES -- THERE IS RELATIVE
CALM IN OTHER WORKER SECTORS AT THE PRESENT TIME.
HOWEVER, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE METALWORKER LEADERS
HAVE BEEN PLANNING TO MEET TO CONSIDER A STRIKE PLAN.
HIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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